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Press Release

Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Welcomes New General Manager

CLEBURNE, TX, March 13, 2019 - On March 18, Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) will welcome its new General Manager, Kathy Turner Jones, to the district office in Cleburne, TX. Jones comes to the district from a successful tenure with the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) in Conroe, TX, where she served as General Manager for 16 years.

Under her direction, the LSGCD established its offices, built a core staff, established a well permitting and registration program, and adopted rules. Additionally, Jones led the LSGCD through the process of compiling hydrologic information on the characteristics of the Upper Gulf Coast Aquifer, engineering planning, information on water usage and water supply in Montgomery County, and implementing policies and procedures associated with the district's rules.

Jim Conkwright, the retiring General Manager of PGCD, said he could not think of anyone better to replace him in this position due to Jones' background in groundwater management, regional water planning, personnel management, and organizational planning and development.

"Kathy brings in a wealth of knowledge and experience to Prairielands," Conkwright said, "and she is recognized by her peers as a true leader in groundwater management."

Conkwright will retire on April 27, after working for 31 years in groundwater management, with the last five of those years as the General Manager for PGCD. While at PGCD, he worked with legal counsel, hydrologists, and the District's Rules and Bylaws Committee to develop permanent rules for the District. In addition, he served as alternate voting delegate for GMA-8 Joint Planning Group.

"I believe this will be a seamless transition in management," Conkwright said, "and I look forward to co-managing with Kathy for the next six weeks."

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District was created in 2009 by the 81st Texas Legislature with a directive to conserve, protect, and enhance the groundwater resources of Ellis, Johnson, Hill, and Somervell Counties. For ideas and information on how to conserve groundwater, please visit the PGCD website at <u>www.prairielandsgcd.org</u> or call the district office at 817-556-2299.

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